

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-17 were pending in this application. Claims 1-17 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter thereof and new claims 18-30 have been added. Accordingly, claims 18-30 will be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment. Support for the amendment to each of the claims can be found, for example, in the application as originally disclosed and more specifically at p. 3, lines 27-31 and p. 4, lines 1-2. For at least the reasons stated below, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action mailed March 12, 2003, claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 USC § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-16 of prior US Patent No. 6,328,119 and claim 17 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Prewo. To the extent these rejections might still be applied to claims presently pending in this application, they are respectfully traversed.

Prewo teaches a method for connecting a first object to a second object along a common contact surface, wherein the first object comprises, at the location of the contact surface, a portion for a connecting means to be applied, this portion being accessible along at least one edge zone of the second object. Prewo further teaches providing a first and a second object, holding the first object against the second object, melting and atomizing particles of a material

suitable as connecting means, and depositing material particles in molten state on the first object and the second object to form a connection therebetween.

According to Prewo's teaching, "monolayer tapes were made by bonding the layer of filaments to an aluminum backing foil by a plasma sprayed metal coating, such as aluminum, on the surface of the filaments opposite to the foil. This coating entirely covered the filaments and protected them from oxidation..." (col. 1, lines 19-25) Where the coating according to Prewo's teaching covers the filaments in their entirety, these filaments must entirely be embedded in the plasma sprayed metal coating. Therefore, Prewo's teaching is, in fact, limited to a method for connecting a first object to a second object along a common contact surface by embedding a first object on the second object by way of plasma spraying.

The method disclosed in the present application and contained in claim 1, is directed to connecting a first object to a second object along a common contact surface without embedding said first object on the second object. This may be accomplished by flame spraying with a gas-oxygen flame or electric arc-spraying. As is well known by one of ordinary skill in the art, during plasma spraying, particles are melted and atomized at rather high temperatures.

It has been discovered by the Applicant that flame spraying with a gas-oxygen flame or electric arc-spraying, during which particles are melted and atomized at considerably lower temperatures, results in better temperature independent bonding properties. Accordingly, claim 1 differs from the process described by Prewo and should therefore be allowable over the art of record.

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Regarding the rejection of claims 1-16, Applicant believes this rejection has been rendered moot by the present amendment.

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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